

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 50-86 are active in this application with Claims 1-49 cancelled and Claims 50-86 added by the present preliminary amendment.

New Claims 50-68 and new Claims 70-85, each correspond to allow Claims 1-19 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/389,326, reciting further features from Applicants' Figure 1. New Claims 69 and 86 correspond to new Claims 50 and 70, each reciting features from Figure 6 of Applicants' originally filed specification. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, examination of Claims 50-86 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Michael E. Monaco  
Registration No. 52,041

Customer Number  
22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

GJM/MEM/kkn

I:\ATTY\MM\AMENDMENT0557\245205.PRE..DOC